

# Uummarmiutun

**Uummarmiutun** (Inupiaq: [uːm.mɑ̃ʁ.mi.u.tun]) or **Canadian Iñupiaq** is the variant of Iñupiatun (or Inuvialuktun) spoken by the Uummarmiut, part of the Inuvialuit, who live mainly in the communities of Inuvik and Aklavik in the Northwest Territories of Canada.<sup>[1]</sup>

This dialect is essentially the same as that spoken by the Inupiat of Alaska, and is present in Canada because of migration from Alaska in the 1910s, reoccupying traditionally Siglit Inuit lands abandoned during the devastating disease outbreaks of the previous century.<sup>[2]</sup>

Because Inuvik and Aklavik are ethnically mixed communities where English is the near exclusive language of communication, few young people speak Uummarmiutun and the language is very endangered.

It is one of the three dialects, Kangiryuarimiutun and Siglitun are the other two, of the Inuit language grouped together under the label Inuvialuktun.

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## Phonology

Uummarmtiutun has 31 phonemes, 6 of which are vowels, 3 short and 3 long, 5 of which are diphthongs, the rest being consonants:


- Vowels: /a, i, u, aː, iː, uː, ai, ui, iu, ua, ia/
- Consonants: /p, t, k, g, q, m, n, ɲ, ŋ, f, v, ɸ, h, t͡ʃ, d͡ʒ, j, r, l, ɬ, j/

## Vocabulary comparison

The comparison of some animal names in the two dialects of Iñupiatun:

**Alaskan Iñupiaq**<sup>[3]</sup>    **Canadian Iñupiaq**<sup>[4]</sup>    **meaning**

Uummarmiutun	
<b>Native to</b>	Canada
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Uummarmiut
<b>Language family</b>	Eskimo–Aleut <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Eskimo<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Inuit<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Inupiaq<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Uummarmiutun</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>
Language codes	
<b>ISO 639-3</b>	—
<b>Glottolog</b>	<i>None</i>



Inuit dialects. Uummarmiut is the orange within Canada.

Uummaġmiutun	Uummarmiutun	Uummarmiut dialect
siksrik	hikîik/sikîik	<u>ground squirrel</u>
qugruk	qugîuk	<u>tundra swan</u>
aaġlu	arlu	<u>killer whale</u>
amaġuq	amaruq	<u>gray wolf</u>
isunġaġluk	ihun'ngaq	<u>Pomarine jaeger</u>
kanuq	kanguq	<u>snow goose</u>
qunġiq	qun'ngiq	<u>reindeer</u> <sup>(1)</sup>
tiġiganniaq	tiriganiaq	<u>Arctic fox</u>
umiŋmak	umingmak	<u>muskox</u>

<sup>1</sup> The name *reindeer* for semi-domesticated subspecies (*Rangifer tarandus tarandus*). The wild subspecies (*Rangifer tarandus granti*) is caribou (Iñupiaq name is *tuttu*).

## See also

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- Eskimo-Aleut Languages
- IPA

## References

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1. Inuvialuit Region - Languages (<http://www.irc.inuvialuit.com/culture/language.html>)
2. The Inuvialuit by David Morrison, Curator of N.W.T. Archaeology (District of Mackenzie), Canadian Museum of Civilization (<http://www.canadianarchaeology.com/cmcc/pinuva.htm>) Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20000229125642/http://www.canadianarchaeology.com/cmcc/pinuva.htm>) 2000-02-29 at the Wayback Machine
3. Interactive IñupiaQ Dictionary (<http://www.alaskool.org/language/dictionaries/inupiaq/default.htm>)
4. Inuvialuit Settlement Region – TK Study, August 2006 ([https://web.archive.org/web/20160304071537/http://www.capekrusenstern.org/docs/icc\\_study\\_2006.pdf](https://web.archive.org/web/20160304071537/http://www.capekrusenstern.org/docs/icc_study_2006.pdf))

## Further reading

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- Lowe, Ronald. *Uummarmiut Uqalungiha Mumikhitchirutingit = Basic Uummarmiut Eskimo Dictionary*. Inuvik, N.W.T., Canada: Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement, 1984. ISBN 0-9691597-1-4
- Lowe, Ronald. *Basic Uummarmiut Eskimo Grammar = Uummarmiut Uqalungiha Ilihauîîutikîîangit*. C.O.P.E, 5. Inuvik, N.W.T.: Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement, 1985. ISBN 0-9691597-4-9

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